

On February 14, 1922, an alleged plot to blackmail businessmen resulted in a gunfight between anarchists and cops. Eight men were arrested, but six were eventually released. Two of the men, Jack Randoff and Frank Sergo were charged with the use of the mail to defraud.

Authorities claimed the men were part of an international anarchist organization called the Black Hand Society. Roughly twenty businessmen claimed to have been blackmailed in the Los Angeles area.

Police also attempted to associate those arrested with the Sacco and Vanzetti campaign. They alleged that several anarchists, who were arrested in other cities and were found to have bombs, had connections with this local group.